

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007082
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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF JANUARY 11, 1977, "NOR-
WAY SEEKS TO REOPEN TALKS AT U.N. FOR TREATY ON LAW OF
THE SEA" BY KATHLEEN TELTSCH

BEGIN TEXT

NORWAY HAS MOVED TO REOPEN DEADLOCKED NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, SUMMONING A GENEVA CONFERENCE
TO WORK ON THE CONTROVERSY OVER DEEP-SEA MINING.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS INVITED MORE THAN 150 NATIONS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSION CALLED AT THE INITIATIVE OF
JENS EVENSEN, NORWAY'S MINISTER FOR LAW OF THE SEA, WHO
HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS THAT STARTED IN 1974.

BECAUSE A NUMBER OF THE SMALLER NATIONS WOULD HAVE DIFFICUL-
TY IN MEETING THE COSTS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE NOBEL FOUN-
DATION IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE OFFERED TO HELP DEFRAY THEIR
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PAGE 02 STATE 007082

EXPENSES.

THE LAST ROUND OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS ENDED HERE IN
SEPTEMBER IN A BITTER DISPUTE OVER EXPLOITATION OF THE

SEABED RESOURCES OF NICKEL, COPPER AND OTHER MINERALS.
THE UNITED STATES AND THE COUNTRIES WITH OCEAN-MINING

TECHNOLOGY INSIST ON PROTECTING FREE ENTERPRISE BY GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO MINING SITES FOR PRIVATE INTERESTS. THIRD-WORLD NATIONS WANT TO HOLD ON TO THE OCEANS' RICHES, INSISTING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DECREED THEY BE REGARDED AS THE "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND".

THE MINING ISSUE IS REGARDED AS THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE WAY OF OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON THE TREATY, AND MOST NATIONS GENERALLY ACCEPT THE OTHER PROPOSALS FOR A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN WHICH COASTAL STATES HAVE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS TO FISH AND OIL, THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIMPEDED PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS AND PROVISIONS ON POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

THE EVENSEN INITIATIVE FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING IN GENEVA BEGINNING FEB. 28 WOULD ENABLE MEMBERS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MINING ISSUE BEFORE THE NEXT FULL SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE OPENS HERE IN MAY.

HAMILTON SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE OF SRI LANKA, THE CONFERENCE'S PRESIDENT, WELCOMED THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER'S MOVE, SAYING IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PROGRESS BE MADE BEFORE MAY AND THAT PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON PERSUADING A LARGE CROSS SECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND. APART FROM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS A PROBLEM OF GETTING GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE QUALIFIED EXPERTS. THE INTENTION WAS TO HAVE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ATTEND.

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PAGE 03 STATE 007082

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE SAID TO BE SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVE. MR. EVENSEN AND HIS TOP AIDES FLEW TO MOSCOW OVER THE WEEKEND AND WILL HAVE TALKS NEXT IN LONDON.

THE INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS KNOWN TO HAVE STARTED SOON AFTER THE ELECTION REVIEWING THE POLICY FORMULATED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND SEEKING SUGGESTIONS FROM CONGRESS AND INDIVIDUALS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT.

A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE ACTIVITY IS SAMUEL A. BLEICHER, A PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, WHO IS WORKING WITH THE CARTER TRANSITION TEAM.

ALTHOUGH OPINIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT FROM MANY SIDES ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN AMERICAN POLICY, IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE ANY MAJOR SHIFTS. SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ALSO THOMAS VINCENT LEARSON, WHO HEADED THE

UNITED STATES DELEGATION, HAD UNDERSCORED THAT THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATING POSITION HAD BEEN EVOLVED AS A BIPARTISAN POLICY.

END TEXT.
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